

**Judy Hart**  
**On behalf of the Montana Library Association**

House Education Committee

Public Testimony on HB181

January 18, 2013

Madam Chair Hansen and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Judy Hart (H A R T) and I am the Chair of the Government Affairs Committee for the Montana Library Association, representing over 800 members. Our members work in public, academic, school, tribal, and special libraries across Montana. The purpose of the Association is to promote library interest and development and to raise the standards of library services in the state of Montana.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you about the Montana Library Association's position on HB181.

Effective library media programs, staffed by licensed library media specialists directly contribute to higher student achievement. Research has repeatedly shown that strong library media programs increase student achievement. In dozens of large-scale studies, involving over 8,700 schools and over 2.6 million students, research has consistently demonstrated that students score an average of 10-20% higher on reading and achievement tests when their school has a strong library media program.

A successful library media program is made up of numerous important elements, and researchers have identified a number of specific factors that correlate with higher student achievement. Research has shown that student achievement is higher when...

- A. Library media centers are staffed at higher levels (more positions, more hours).
- B. Library media centers have larger collections of better quality information resources.
- C. Library media centers and resources are used more frequently by students and staff.
- D. Library media specialists spend more time collaborating with classroom teachers to teach information literacy curriculum standards.

We have talked to our members, have reviewed the bill and thank Representative Ballance for speaking with us as well, we very much appreciate your input. While we certainly understand the budget constraints faced by individual school districts and the challenges that these shortfalls bring, the Montana Library Association has to consider this proposed bill from a statewide perspective, and the impact of this legislation on school districts and our students throughout Montana.

School library media programs, managed by licensed educators, are critical components of successful schools. Our digital world demands that students be given every opportunity to gain the skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond. Together with classroom teachers, school library media specialists help to ensure that students are ethical and efficient consumers and producers of ideas and information.

On behalf of the Montana Library Association, I urge you to vote "no" on HB181.

**Resources:**

**Full-Time School Librarians Linked to Higher Student Reading Scores**

[http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/home/893803-312/full-time\\_school\\_librarians\\_linked\\_to.html.csp](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/home/893803-312/full-time_school_librarians_linked_to.html.csp)

**The League of Extraordinary Librarians: SLJ's latest tech survey shows that media specialists are leading the way**

<http://www.thedigitalshift.com/2012/11/k-12/the-league-of-extraordinary-librarians-slj-s-latest-tech-survey-shows-that-media-specialists-are-leading-the-way/>

**Increased Library Staff Links to Higher CSAP Scores**

[http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/287\\_CO3\\_Staffing\\_Test\\_Scores.pdf](http://www.lrs.org/documents/fastfacts/287_CO3_Staffing_Test_Scores.pdf)

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2 Scholastic (2008). *School Libraries Work!* Scholastic Library Publishing. Retrieved from [http://librarypublishing.scholastic.com/content/stores/LibraryStore/pages/images/SLW3\\_2008.pdf](http://librarypublishing.scholastic.com/content/stores/LibraryStore/pages/images/SLW3_2008.pdf)

3 Quantitative Resources, LLC (2003). *Show Me Connection: How School Library Media Center Services Affect Student Achievement*. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Retrieved from <http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/curriculum/librarystudy/plainenglish.pdf>

4 Todd, R. J., & Kuhlthau, C. C. (2004). *Student Learning through Ohio School Libraries: Background, Methodology and Report of Findings*. Ohio Educational Library Media Association. Retrieved from <http://www.oelma.org/StudentLearning/documents/OELMAReportofFindings.pdf>

5 Todd, R. J. (2005). *Report of Phase Two of Delaware School Library Survey: Student Learning through Delaware School Libraries*. Governor's Task Force on School Libraries. Retrieved from <http://www2.lib.udel.edu/taskforce/study/phasetwo.pdf>

6 Lance, K. C., Hamilton-Pennell, C., Rodney, M. J., Petersen, L., & Sitter, C. (1999). *Information Empowered: The School Librarian as an Agent of Academic Achievement in Alaska Schools*. Alaska State Library. Retrieved from <http://www.library.state.ak.us/pdf/anc/infoemxs.pdf>

7 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2000). *Measuring up to Standards: The Impact of School Library Programs & Information Literacy in Pennsylvania Schools*. Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries. Retrieved from <http://www.statelibrary.state.pa.us/libraries/lib/libraries/measuringup.pdf>

8 Lance, K. C. (1994). The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement. *School Library Media Quarterly*, 22(3).

9 Baumbach, D. (2002). *Making the Grade: The Status of School Library Media Centers in the Sunshine State and How They Contribute to Student Achievement*. Retrieved from <http://www.sunlink.ucf.edu/makingthegrade/summary.pdf>

10 Lance, K. C., Hamilton-Pennell, C., & Rodney, M. J. (2000). *How School Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards: The Second Colorado Study*. Library Research Service. Retrieved from <http://www.lrs.org/documents/lmcstudies/CO/execsumm.pdf>

11 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2005). *Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Illinois Study*. Illinois School Library Media Association. Retrieved from <http://www.islma.org/pdf/ILStudy2.pdf>

12 Lance, K. C., Rodney, M. J., & Russell, B. (2007). *How Students, Teachers, and Principals Benefit from Strong School Libraries: The Indiana Study*. Indiana Library Federation. Retrieved from <http://www.ilfonline.org/AIME/indata.htm>

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14 Kuhlthau, C. C. (2004). *Seeking Meaning : A Process Approach to Library and Information Services* (2nd ed.). Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited.

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